

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 AF-06

/049 W

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R 141030Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ZURICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZURICH 0021

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PURCHASE OF ARMS  
AND WEAPONS IN U.S

1. MR. WERNER ALTENBACH, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A SWISS NATIONAL AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZURICH OFFICE OF SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE ET MINIERE DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANI (SNIM), CALLED AT CONGEN JANUARY 13. ALTENBACH INDICATED THAT HIS OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 15 WITKONERSTRASSE AND HEADED BY SIEGFRIED WEISSKOPF, ALSO A SWISS NATIONAL.

2. ALTENBACH STATED THAT THE OFFICE NORMALLY IS A MINING EQUIPMENT PURCHASING AGENCY FOR THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED SNIM, BUT HAS RECENTLY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ARRANGE FOR CONFIDENTIAL PURCHASE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MACHINE GUNS AND MORTARS WITH APPROPRIATE AMMUNITION FOR THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT. ARMS ALLEGEDLY REQUIRED BECAUSE OF QUOTE DANGEROUS SITUATION UNQUOTE CURRENTLY EXISTING IN MAURITANIA. ALTENBACH WAS VAGUE ABOUT EXACT NUMBERS, CALIBER TYPE, ETC. OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION REQUIRED AND STRESSED DESIRE THAT INQUIRY BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE.

3. COMMERCIAL OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT THIS CONGEN IS NOT NORMALLY INVOLVED IN ARMS TRANSACTIONS AND THAT THEREFORE WE  
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WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO HOW SUCH MATTERS ARE HANDLED. HE ADDED

COMMENT THAT ALL ARMS AND WEAPONS EXPORTED FROM U.S. ARE SUBJECT TO MUNITIONS CONTROL REGULATIONS. ALTENBACH INDICATED HE WILL CALL AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

4. CONGEN HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SNIM, WEISSKOPF, OR ALTENBACH. SNIM OFFICE IS NOT LISTED IN LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY THOUGH THERE IS A LISTING FOR SIEGFRIED WEISSKOPF-PURCHASING AGENCY.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON FURTHER RESPONSE TO ALTENBACH. NELSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ARMS, SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ZURICH00021  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760013-0984  
**From:** ZURICH  
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**Office:** ACTION MC  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PURCHASE OF ARMS AND WEAPONS IN U.S  
**TAGS:** MASS, MR, US, (ALTENBACH, WERNER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006